

INFORMATION REPORT
CONFIDENTIAL

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COUNTRY Colombia

SUBJECT Raid on PCC Headquarters

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1. [REDACTED] the military police raided the headquarters of the Partido Comunista de Colombia (PCC) on 18 December 1949. Communist leaders, who had had prior warning of the raid, stayed away from headquarters although it has been their custom to work on Sunday afternoons, and only the charwoman on duty was arrested. Later, Miguel Angel Velasquez, peasant leader of the Cundinamarca Departmental Committee, was arrested when he went to Party headquarters. Rafael Baquero H., one of the Communist leaders and director of the census in the Contraloria de la Republica, was interrogated after some of the documents confiscated during the raid were discovered to deal with census matters handled by the Contraloria.
2. As a result of the raid, the Communist rank and file are being instructed to destroy all documents, carnets, and other papers which might identify them with the Party and to obtain cards of either of the traditional parties, preferably the Conservative.
3. The National Directorate of the PCC believes that the government is trying to make things as uncomfortable as possible for the Communists in order to instill fear among those who might be disposed to join the Communist Party after the past elections. The Communists themselves had previously expressed the belief that the ranks of the Party would grow by the addition of disappointed Liberals.
4. Although the police report stated that armaments and explosives were confiscated during the raid and the newspaper El Siglo featured a front-page picture of these arms, [REDACTED] declared that it was false. Only office machines, routine correspondence and miscellaneous documents were removed from PCC headquarters. 25X1X

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5. [REDACTED] the arms were actually confiscated in a raid on the shop of a Communist shoemaker, Oscar Caicedo. The nearest thing to armaments discovered in the raid on the headquarters were books which had been hollowed out in the center so that a revolver could be concealed inside.

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[REDACTED] there was little of importance among the documents confiscated in the raid. There were no lists of members or other papers that would compromise persons other than the Communist leaders who are already well known.

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Class. Changed To: TS S

Date: 01 JUN 1978

This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.
Next Review Date: 2008